

REMARKS BY GEORGIA TECH PRESIDENT G. WAYNE CLOUGH  
GM-PACE Announcement, August 18, 2004

It is a great pleasure to welcome Robert Lutz and Elaine Chapman-Moore of GM, Stuart Doyle of EDS, Kate Driscoll of Sun Microsystems, and Ed Arlin of UGS to Georgia Tech. I also want to recognize Randy Thayer and Paul Allen of GM, who have been the driving force behind this event.

None of these corporate partners of PACE are new to Georgia Tech. We already have ongoing partnerships with all of these companies and they already contribute to excellence at Tech. We are excited to take our partnership to a new level as we join a dozen of the nation's leading technological schools who are the beneficiaries of PACE – Partners for the Advancement of Collaborative Engineering Education.

When it comes to hiring our graduates, GM is one of the leading companies, both in the number of interviews it conducts with our students and in the number of Georgia Tech alumni working there. GM has supported scholarships for minorities and women in engineering at Georgia Tech for many years. And our students are also regular participants in GM's "Future Truck" competition, which challenges universities across the nation to make SUVs and pick-up trucks more energy efficient and environmentally sound.

GM is also a corporate partner in a number of education and research endeavors, such as The Logistics Institute and our executive master's degree program in international logistics.

Sun Microsystems products have been in use on the Georgia Tech campus ever since Sun started making them. And we are fortunate to be a participant in the Sun Matching Grant Program. Sun Microsystems is also a collaborator with the Georgia Tech Microsystems Packaging Research Center and a sponsor for short courses offered by the Center. Going the other direction, Sun has helped to test-drive pre-release versions of software developed at Georgia Tech, such as subArctic, a Java-based user interface toolkit developed by our Graphics, Visualization and Usability Center in the College of Computing.

USG is a partner in providing our students with a portfolio of software and services for CAD applications for manufacturing. And Georgia Tech students are enthusiastic participants in the EDS Student Engineering Contest.

Today our ongoing relationships with these companies take on a wonderful new dimension, and we are grateful for the contribution they are making through PACE to enhance the engineering and science curricula we offer to students seeking careers in the automotive industry.

Georgia Tech's goal is to define the technological research university of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. We are determined to be in the forefront of making new scientific discoveries, developing new generations of technology, and putting those discoveries and technologies to work to solve problems and improve the human condition. That calls for us to be on the leading edge in the approach we take to educating our students, and we work very deliberately to create an exciting

learning environment. We strive to produce high-caliber graduates who are well-prepared for the complex demands of the future... who can develop new technology and operations, who can see products and services in the context of the larger systems to which they contribute... and who are innovative problem-solvers who put technology to work in new ways.

As a result, it is very important to us to use cutting edge technology and software in our classrooms and teaching labs. We want our students to graduate knowing how to use the latest technological tools so they are prepared to step right in and make an immediate contribution to the most progressive companies in the marketplace.

PACE will help us to achieve that goal by providing the latest software packages for manufacturing, modeling, styling, fluids analysis, meshing of finite elements, structural and thermal behavior analysis, and computational simulations. All of these tools are important in the automotive industry, and will help us prepare students to compete and succeed in that industry.

But they are also important functions for a wide range of other engineering disciplines, from mechanical engineering to aerospace engineering, civil engineering, chemical and biomolecular engineering, industrial and systems engineering, biomedical engineering, and electrical and computer engineering. So, even though Ward Winer of the Woodruff School of Mechanical Engineering is the one who is emceeding this announcement, the beneficiaries of this gift of software will be thousands of students across the length and breadth of Georgia Tech's engineering curriculum.

Georgia Tech is the nation's largest producer of engineers, graduating more than 2,000 every year. We are also one of the nation's most diverse engineering schools – we are a national leader in graduating minority and female engineers. And we intend to be a leader in engineering education. Engineering education has a tradition of reacting to industry, of changing the curriculum in response to innovations that industry has already made. At Georgia Tech, we want to turn that approach on its head. We want to look ahead to the future and imagine what the role of engineers and the engineering profession will be one, two, three decades from now, and prepare our students for that future. As the ice hockey legend Wayne Gretsky once said, the secret of his success is skating not to where the puck is, but to where the puck will be.

That is what we want to do with engineering education at Georgia Tech, and PACE is making an important contribution to our efforts. We are excited about the new dimension that PACE adds to education at Georgia Tech and honored to join the distinguished group of universities that are involved in PACE. We look forward to enhancing our curriculum with the software and hardware that PACE will provide, and we thank you for becoming our partners in education the next generation of leaders in science and engineering who will carry our nation and the world forward.